



State of Wisconsin  
**Department of Health and Family Services**

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Jim Doyle, Governor  
Helene Nelson, Secretary

May 14, 2004

Dear Friends of Public Health:

In follow-up to the Public Health Restructuring Report issued in February 2004, I commissioned a briefing paper on public health institutes to lay the foundation for a well-informed discussion of the options for Wisconsin.

This report, now published on the Department's web site at <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/aboutDHFS/dph/restructure/index.htm> identifies key issues for consideration. For each issue background information is provided, followed by Committee recommendations related to the issue area. The report also presents an analysis of the pros and cons of the alternative models identified by the Committee. The report does not make a recommendation on the scope or structure of a public health institute.

To develop this report, the Committee studied national research on Public Health Institutes; consulted with national experts at the National Network of Public Health Institutes; consulted with state government officials knowledgeable about the creation of state public authorities; consulted with state government staff with expertise in specialized areas; considered material provided by stakeholder groups; and reviewed background information on the state health plan, public health statutes, and current funding situation for public health.

We welcome your advice on this issue and encourage you to read the report, share it with your partners and provide comments. I believe that you will see in the report that we have addressed many issues and concerns that have been raised by stakeholders. We look forward to an open dialogue on these concepts, including at the upcoming joint conference of the Wisconsin Public Health Association and the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards on May 18 – 19, 2004 in Stevens Point.

Sincerely,

Helene Nelson  
Secretary